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HERBERT BIBERMAN
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

FILE NO. 100-6769

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 12/11/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/30/41 12/1-8/41	REPORT MADE BY S. R. RUSSO HHS
TITLE HERBERT BIBERMAN; JOHN HOWARD LAWSON. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (R)	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:		DECLASSIFIED BY 5/68-5/2/94 ON 10-14-95 <u>SPK</u>	
<p><u>STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL</u></p> <p>Daily association of Bureau agent with Subject BIBERMAN continued, resulting in following significant disclosures:</p> <p>(1) Subject met Minister of Finance, Loyalist Spain, when in Mexico, later entertaining him at his Hollywoodland home.</p> <p>(2) Subject's safe deposit box key observed.</p> <p>(3) Subject after discussion with Russian Consul, directed enclosures for Soviet diplomatic pouches for transmittal to Moscow. <u>(S)(u)</u></p> <p>(4) Undersheet of letter typewritten by Subject procured by artifice for Laboratory analysis.</p> <p>(5) Subject procured gratuitous services of PAUL ROBESON for Joint Spanish Refugee Committee benefit December 14, 1941.</p> <p>(6) Subjects delight in successful Russian counter-attacks, in WENDELL WILKIE'S acceptance of SCHNEIDERMAN appeal to U. S. Supreme Court.</p> <p>(7) Subject's propagandizing of Bureau agent noted, including presentation of radical book.</p> <p>(8) Subject's life history obtained.</p> <p>(9) JORIS IVENS identified and activities cited. Subject requested IVENS arrange private showing of Russian propaganda film. Gala Russian war relief concert covered by Bureau personnel. <u>32</u></p> <p>Subtle Communist propaganda noted in literary course taught by Subject LAWSON under sponsorship League of American Writers. <u>LAWSON'S role in arrangements for reception tendered ERSKINE CALDWELL cited.</u> <u>(S)(u)</u></p> <p>- P -</p>			
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the Russian Government, Army, and people. During this period, Subject has stated that he was certain that Russia would dominate the peace conferences which would result from this war, and has stated that the mistakes of the last peace conference would not be repeated, inasmuch as Russia has the position of guardian of the people of the world, and would not permit them to be "duped" again. He stated that this would be possible because of the great numbers of people who are now organized in the labor movement. Subject continued in this vein, stating that he did not believe that Russia would act to institute Communism immediately after the war, but stated rather that Russia would permit the democracies to be re-built before it actively engaged in agitation for "progress." Attention is invited to the Subject's choice of the word "progress."

On the same date, Subject expressed happiness at WENDELL WILKIE'S acceptance of the appeal before the United States Supreme Court of WILLIAM SCHNEIDERMAN, Communist presently found guilty of criminal syndicalism by the State Courts of California. He stated that he believed this was significant, inasmuch as WILKIE represents "Wall Street," and the moneyed interests, and that he believed he would ultimately accept Communism. He stated further that WENDELL WILKIE in his recent trip to Hollywood had appeared before a group of motion picture and other Hollywood executives and made an "off the record" speech. Subject stated that while he had not attended this luncheon, he had been told that in his speech, WILKIE stated that the reason why the people of Russia were fighting so valiently was because they had formerly lived under a Government which had not given them the fruits of their labors and had set up one which did. He stated also that WILKIE had said that they were fighting strongly and bravely to protect this country. Subject then went on to say that WILKIE had stated that the days of big profits and the economic system which we know were over, and that what Russia was doing was one of the future problems with which the businessmen of America would have to deal. On this same date, reporting agent while speaking to temporary Confidential National Defense Informant Number 3, who was present at the speech, which Subject referred to, asked him whether or not WILKIE had made any of the foregoing statements, and the Informant advised that he had not.

Throughout the period of instant report, Subject has been presenting the typical Communist propaganda to reporting agent, and on December 4, 1941, presented Agent with a gift in the form of a novel by EDWARD BELLAMY, entitled, "LOOKING BACKWARD." On the flyleaf of this book, Subject made an appropriate and sentimental inscription, and signed it, under the name of December 4, 1941. It is noted that this book contains an introduction by the late HEYWOOD BROUN, in which he states, "BELLAMY did see with clear vision things and factors much more important than the possibility of hearing a sermon without going to church. Much which is now established in Soviet Russia bears at least a likeness to the industrial army visioned in this prophetic book. However, Communism can scarcely claim BELLAMY as its own, for he emphasizes repeatedly the non-violent features of the revolution which he imagined. Indeed, at one point he argues that the left-wingers of his own day impeded change by the very excesses of their technical philosophy.

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